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VIRGINIA LAW REGISTER.

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Honorable Jesse F. West, judge of the Third Judicial Circuit of Virginia, composed of the counties of Prince George, Surry, Sussex, Greensville and Brunswick, was born in Sussex county, Virginia, on July 16th, 1862. He is a son of the **Honorable** late H. T. West, a prominent planter of that **Jesse F. West.** county. He was educated at the Suffolk Collegiate Institute, Suffolk, Virginia; the University of North Carolina, where he graduated in 1885, and at the University of Virginia, where he took the full law course under the late John B. Minor. While at the Suffolk Collegiate Institute he won medals in mathematics and Latin, and while at the University of North Carolina he won the debator's medal in the Philanthropic Literary Society.

He was admitted to the bar in July, 1886, and until his elevation to the bench enjoyed a large and lucrative practice. He was elected superintendent of schools for Sussex in 1890, but resigned on January 1st, 1892, to accept the office of judge of the county court of Sussex, to which he had been elected. While serving as judge of the county court he was called upon to preside at the trial of special cases in the courts of Surry, Prince George, Nottoway, Greensville, Norfolk and Southampton counties.

Judge West has been prominently identified with the Democratic party in the fourth congressional district for more than fifteen years. He presided as permanent chairman of the conventions which nominated the late Sidney P. Epes and the Honorable F. R. Lassiter as candidates for Congress in that district, and was a delegate from Virginia to the National Democratic Convention held at Kansas City in 1900.

His home is at Waverly in Sussex county. His family consists of a wife and four children. He was married in September, 1887, to Miss Nannie P. Baird, a daughter of the late Dr. Oscar H. Baird, a prominent physician of Sussex county. He is an active

member of the Christian Church and takes great interest in the Sunday-school work.

In 1902, Judge West was elected by a large majority of the members composing the General Assembly of Virginia to the position of judge of the third circuit, which he now holds. It was said at that time by the members of the bar who knew him best that he possessed a judicial temperament which peculiarly qualified him for the bench, and that his election would give general satisfaction. The result has fully justified these predictions of his friends. He enjoys the unusual distinction of never having had one of his decisions reversed by an appellate court, notwithstanding, as county and circuit judge, he has been called upon to decide cases involving as many difficult and perplexing questions as can arise before a trial court exercising a full criminal, common law and chancery jurisdiction. Always considerate and courteous, not only to the members of the bar, but to all persons with whom his duties bring him in contact, prompt and diligent in dispatching the business of his courts, and, above all, absolutely just and impartial in every official act, he has justly won from the people of his circuit those feelings of affection and respect which are so quickly inspired by an able and upright judge.

We have before us Part I of the Second Annual Report of the State Corporation Commission. We have examined the report with great interest and profit. It contains much valuable information not only for the legislator but for the lawyer.

Report of Corporation Commission. The work which the report shows has been accomplished by this new department, justifies fully the wisdom of the Constitutional Convention in creating it. The total amount turned into the treasury by the commission for the year 1904 was \$522,182.66. The volume contains not only the Report of the Commission, but the Act Relating to its Creation and Organization; its Rules of Practice and Procedure; its Rules and Regulations Relating to Demurrage, etc.; its Opinion in Announcing the Rules; the Opinion of the Supreme Court of Appeals Concerning the Same; Leading Matters Disposed of by Formal Orders and Opinions Connected Therewith; Alphabetical List of State Banks, Showing Capital, etc.; List Showing Character of Stocks and Bonds held by State Banks; List of Charters Issued during 1904; List of Charters Amended;

Classified List of Charter Amendments; List of Foreign Corporations; Taxable Values of Canals and Steam Roads; Taxable Values of Electric Roads; Taxable Values of Telegraph and Telephone Companies; Taxable Values of Express Companies; Taxable Values of Steamboat and Steamship Companies; Taxable Values of Public Service Corporations, by cities, towns, and counties, all of which is followed by an exhaustive index of forty-three pages. The Commission failed to insert at the beginning of the report a table of contents, which would have greatly added to the facility with which the report might be consulted. The report is a handsome volume of 360 pages, and may be obtained without charge on application to the Commission.

We are glad to publish this month an article of great historical value from the pen of Mr. William E. Ross, of the Richmond bar. His subject, "History of Virginia Codification," is one of which no

Virginia Virginia lawyer can afford to be ignorant. In looking over our exchanges we are struck with the fact
Codification. that lawyers in some of the states, especially those north of us, are giving more time than the Virginia lawyers to lego-historical matters. The REGISTER is always glad to give a portion of its space to subjects, which though they can not be called *essentials*, are yet of importance to a well-rounded professional life.

Mr. Eugene C. Massie, so well known as the advocate of the "Torrens System," has been nominated at the Democratic primary as one of the members of the House of Delegates from Richmond

City. In his canvass Mr. Massie announced
A Legislator that his purpose in desiring the nomination was
With a Mission. that he might be instrumental in the establishment of the system of land registration, which

is now receiving so much attention both in this country and abroad. Mr. Massie's nomination means that the fight for the system in the General Assembly will be on again with renewed vigor at the coming session. The measure failed of passage at the session of 1904 only by a few votes, and it will doubtless be the paramount issue when the Legislature convenes in January. We rejoice in Mr. Massie's nomination. We love to see in legislative halls "a man with a mission."



THE HONORABLE JESSE F. WEST
JUDGE OF THE THIRD CIRCUIT